

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

Survey work continued this week to determine the number of trees to be removed as a result of expanding the quarantine zone. That expansion became necessary after the finding of five additional infested trees in late-July/early-August.

The new infested trees, which include maples, birches and elms, are in the southeast section of Linden. Because they all had egg sites but no exit holes, the zone expansion will be by 1/8 of a mile. The expansion does not take the quarantine zone into any new municipalities. The total size of the expanded zone will be 16.5 square miles.

No live adult Asian longhorned beetles have been found in connection with the additional infested trees. The four infested trees still standing will be taken down after the first hard frost to avoid dispersing any adult beetles that may be in them to other trees.

Contractor work crews have finished grinding stumps left from high-risk host trees taken down this summer. In all, 6,577 tons of wood chips from infested and high-risk host trees have been taken to the Rahway incinerator to be burned since tree takedown began.

Senior Auditor Les Mahagan and Assistant Director of Natural Resources and Environment Trish McClure from the U.S. General Accounting Office visited the Rahway office on August 4 as part of the overall auditing of the New Jersey ALB program. Also in attendance were Christine Markham, Mike Stefan and Barry Emens from USDA APHIS PPQ, Carl Schulze and Joe Zoltowski from NJDA's Division of Plant Industry and Pam Tappan Zipse from NJ Parks and Forestry to answer questions on all phases of the ALB program.

A *Philadelphia Inquirer* article on damaging pests including the Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer is scheduled to run in Sunday's editions.

Jersey City/Hoboken Quarantine Area

A total of 10 personnel are continuing survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City-Hoboken quarantine area. As of August 7, a total of 2,520 trees have been surveyed in 2005 with no signs of the ALB detected. In addition, 893 trees have been treated this year with imidacloprid.